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ABSTRACT

This videotape introduces resources provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to help educators make good educational policy decisions. The NCES is charged with collecting, maintaining, and reporting statistics about U.S. education, and it makes a variety of resources available to educators and the public to help them use this information. The following resources are highlighted in this report: (1) the Standards for Education Data Collection and Reporting (SEDCAR), a set of standards to help with uniform terminology and procedures; (2) data handbooks for collecting and defining data about students and staff; (3) the Course Classification System, a way of standardizing descriptions of courses among schools and agencies; (4) the SPEEDE/ExPRESS system of electronic transfer of student records; (5) a discussion of protecting the privacy of student records, "Protecting the Privacy of Student Records: Guidelines for Education Agencies"; (6) "Guidelines for Education Technology Decisions," a publication to help educators in the information age; (7) national education databases on CD-ROM for educators and the public; (8) the "Census Mapping Tool," census data for districts within states; and (9) EDSEARCH, software for the NCES Internet site. (SLD)

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